



**April, 2007**

**Volume 3, Issue 4**

**Copyright RCT**

## FROM THE EDITOR...



### IN THIS ISSUE

**PAGE 2 Radioman!**

**PAGE 5 Guess the key results.**

**PAGE 6 EMCOMM & the RCT.**

**PAGE 11 Packet system.**

**PAGE 12 Planning Committee Article.**

**PAGE 16 VE reports.**

**PAGE 17 Birthdays.**

**PAGE 18 General class.**

**Page 20 Q83 Day.**

**Page 23 Library Project**

February 23 has come and gone and the Amateur bands still sound the same. No great earth-shattering doom and gloom predictions have come true.

Amateur radio continues to survive all the changes that have come and so will we.

While we are on that subject, I had the distinct pleasure to participate in the latest General calls license course with some of our fine instructors. It was a great experience and we plan to do it again, soon before the question

Its spring and allergies are running rampant! I used to like spring, what with all the nice blooming going on, but now it's just a miserable drippy time...

With that in mind, lets talk about spring cleaning and shack re-organization. Time to go through the shack and get those dust bunnies out from under the rig.

While you are at it, take a look at your shack organization. Below, we can see the messy WG7X shack. Nothing fancy just some radios sitting on a fold-out table. Someday I'll have one of those super shacks that we see in the glossy mags!

In the meantime, I try to keep radio WG7X running and clean... Well running at least, the XYL would debate me on the clean part!

73 for this month!  
Gary WG7X

pools change in July 2007. So, if you or someone you know wants to participate in our next General class, please let me know and we'll include you in the next class.

This class will probably kick off in mid May, and run for six week or so. Hopefully ending before the next set of changes.





# Ask Radioman

Answers to your questions  
pertaining to Amateur Radio and  
Amateur Radio operation

Send your questions to: [radioman@w7dk.org](mailto:radioman@w7dk.org)

---

Dear Radioman,

I have been a ham for about two months. The other day I was listening to the local radio club's repeater. I heard a repeater user, who obviously just arrived at his house. He told the ham he was talking to, "I just arrived at my **HOME 20**", so see you later". My question to you, Radioman, isn't this CB lingo? And isn't CB lingo frowned upon by amateur radio operators? What do you have to profess about this?

Name and Call Sign withheld by request of Julie, KG1JCS.

Dear Julie,

Yes, it is true that ham ops don't like to hear CB talk on any amateur frequency. The dislike is part of the tradition of ham radio that dates back to 1958 when the Federal Communications Commission created the Class D Citizen's Band radio service that uses frequencies from 26 to 28 MHz.

Back in those "ole days" the 10 meter ham band was made up of some of that 27 MHz that the FCC used to create the Citizen's Band. Perhaps you have noticed old HF transceivers that have 27 MHz as one of the 10 meter band selections.

When the hams who had to work hard to get a General class license lost some bandwidth to the CBers who simply had to sign the dotted line and pay a small fee to get a CB call sign, it's needless to say that those ham ops were irked.

When the Citizen's Band became a free-for-all kind of 23 channel (and later on 40 channel) chat room with all kinds of wacky lingo, the ham ops who are self policing of their bandwidth and privileges became even more disliking of the CB community.

We've all seen the Smokey and the Bandit movies, the TV show "Dukes of Hazzard", and heard the song "Convoy". These entertainment venues popularized the use of CB lingo. I am sure that you have heard the terms: "Bear", "Fly in the Sky", "Gumball Machines", and, "Kojak with a Kodak" in the media over the last 20 years. Ask your parents if you are not that old, Julie. All of this popularization of what some hams call the "Children's Band" just makes the CB lingo less desirable than ever to hear on the ham bands.

So, Julie— that's the history. But due to what is happening to ham radio as of late is creating some more friction between the THEMES and US's. The THEMES are the "new hams" who obtained their ham licenses through a one or two day seminar that teaches to the test, and with the test directly following. How could anyone fail to get a license. But, the THEMES are "new hams" who do not have any sense of the tradition of amateur radio.

The US's are the hams who think and believe that the tradition of amateur radio should be upheld and handed down from generation to generation or old Elmer to new ham op. This information and culture used to be handed down in ham radio classes that took 9 or 10 weeks plus learning the Morse code took more

Continued on page 3.

**Radioman Continued...**

and more weeks. During those long times of learning together— bonds were formed, friends were made, and the culture was passed on. Now most of this is gone because almost anyone can easily get a ham license in a weekend.

Personally, Radioman does not think that there is any chance of going back to the old way of “passing the torch of knowledge” because now-a-days everyone wants everything to happen so fast. So, Radioman says, “If you can’t beat ‘em, then join ‘em”. So, Julie, with all of this said— Radioman proposes some ways of integrating the old ham radio culture with the ham radio of the future which is predicted to be very much what the Citizen’s Band evolved into. To begin with Radioman proposes some new short cut codes.

Julie, perhaps one of the older hams that you know has mentioned the “Q” signals. They are (now, were) shortcut codes that began with the letter Q. They were used by Morse code operators to handle traffic. These evolved in ham radio with many CW operators. As time went by, some of the Q signals were adopted by hams who used AM and/or SSB voice communication. A short time later, the Q signals became useful on FM, like two meter and 70 cm repeaters.

You may have heard these Q signals: QSL means ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT and has been adopted to mean YES, QTH means LOCATION, QSY means to CHANGE FREQUENCY.

Also, I am sure that you have heard some of the Citizen’s Band “10” codes in the movies and TV shows I mentioned above. For example: 10-4 means YES, or OK; or 10-20 means LOCATION or DESTINATION; and 10-41 means CHANGE TO CHANNEL\_\_.

Both CB and ham codes were dual purpose. The code could make a statement or ask a question by how the users voice sounded. An example is: **QSL** means, “I understand”. However, **10-4?** Means, “Do you understand the information I just gave you”?

Radioman proposes these radio codes for the new wave of amateur radio.

New, proposed, 10Q Signals	
Q1 Q1?	I cant hear you very well. OR Can you hear me very well?
Q4 Q4	Message received. OR Did you receive that?
Q6 Q6?	I am busy, please stand by. OR Are you busy now. Also, The frequency is busy now. OR Is the frequency busy now?
Q11 Q11?	You are talking too fast. OR Am I talking too fast? (Note: has nothing to do with Radio Shack)
Q20 Q20?	My location or destination is _____. OR What is your location? Home20.
Q27 Q27?	I am moving to another frequency. OR Should we move to another frequency?
Q83 Q83?	I am joking with you. Laughter. Is this an April Fool's joke?
Q28?	Is there another station calling me?
Q32 Q32?	I need a radio check. OR Are you checking your radio?
Q3 Q3?	I am finished transmitting to you. Are you finished transmitting to me?
Q Breaker! Q Breaker?	I want to break into your conversation. Is there a breaker?
Q77	Negative Contact.

Illegal CW operators can also use the Q10 codes. Sometimes ‘cut’ numbers can be used to save time. i.e. Q10 could be sent as QAT, or Q11 could be sent as QAA, and so on.

Thanks for the great question, Julie. Radioman hopes that using these new codes will meld the new wave of ham radio operators with the old way of doing business on the amateur air waves. A big welcome, new Amateur Radio Operators. Q83? Q83 Q3 Q4?



**Rettysnitch, a primitive screwdriver antenna.**

ARE YOU THINKING OF SELLING YOUR HOME?  
HOW ABOUT THAT PROPERTY YOU'VE HAD FOREVER?

**I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!**

**YOU CAN SAVE \$1000's IN COMMISSION CHARGES**

Since you are a Ham, you qualify for an exclusive **LOW** commission rate when dealing with me as your Preferred Realtor.

IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO BUY OR YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO GO ABOUT IT,  
LET ME LEAD THE WAY.

JUST GIVE ME A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT YOU WANT, WHERE YOU WANT IT, AND  
HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO PAY FOR IT.

**I HAVE SEVERAL DATA BASES AND CONTACTS AT MY DISPOSAL.  
I'LL WORK UP A LIST OF POSSIBILITIES FOR YOU IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS!**

Frank Palmer  
Realtor



[www.frankpalmer.yourkwagent.com](http://www.frankpalmer.yourkwagent.com)

Office (253) 848- 5304  
Cell (253) 278-9521  
Fax (253) 848-5419  
Email [frankpalmer@kw.com](mailto:frankpalmer@kw.com)  
Home (253) 539-7773



615 East Pioneer Ave. Suite 203 Puyallup, WA 98372

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

I'll be "FRANK" with you!



The Radio Club welcomes new member, Gomez Addams who recently moved to our community in February. Gomez has volunteered to help with the effort to refurbish the clubhouse.

YOU'VE SEEN THEM  
NOW REPORT THEM  
**SASQUATCH HUNTERS  
NET**



EVERY SATURDAY @ 10:00 AM PDT  
**14.300 MHz +/- 2**

JOIN HAMS FROM WA, OR, and N.CAL  
NCS will call for check-ins by COUNTY



---

 Guess the Ham's Key Contest... Is that your final answer?
 

---



FESTER KF7STR



RICH KR7W



Chuck AC7QN



WORTH W7WG



Doug AD7AV



MOREL W6LIX



PETE KK7QW



ALAN N7OMS




---

 Guess the Ham's Key Contest...

The Key and correct owner are shown across from each other. How'd you do? The panel of judges found one 100 percent winner, three who only mixed up two, and most others were honorable mentions.

Peter Baker, AD7EU, was the 100 percent winner. Peter's prize was either a new Buick or a pack of resistors. He chose the resistors because, as he said: "I used to own a Buick so it's a no brainer that I'd rather have the resistors. Negative Q83!"

---

---

## Emergency Communications and the RCT

### "Ecomm" WHAT IS THAT?

Since the days of spark gap home brews and other exciting radio developments, emergency communication has meant many things to different people. To the active ham, it is service to **the** community in time of crisis, a reason to be proud of your hobby and to further develop your skills. To the general public directly effected by a disaster it has meant they could get information and/or help more rapidly and be able to return to status quo and normal life as quickly as possible.

A list of how electronically transferring information in time of disruption is important and appreciated can be almost infinite BUT things have changed. In this column we will explore various changes and try to describe the current 'Ecomm environment' so that individuals willing to volunteer can find out more about the kinds of projects of possible interest. In addition we will encourage additional exploration so that the Radio Club of Tacoma can decide where if anywhere the club can or should become involved. Hopefully within a year all interested people will have formed informed opinions about what path to take personally and what path the RCT should take for the future involvement of all of the resources of the club.

It is no longer possible for Uncle Fudd to bounce out of the swamp in a monster rig full of electronic gear and radios and expect to have the first responders, policy, fire, county, state and federal agencies welcome him with open arms. They do not know him or what his credentials are and during the crisis they do not have time to find out. Since they do not have the time or resources available to 'check him out', he is not welcomed. They do not have food or 200 amp services for him. And, they cannot pay his pump out charge, or be a fuel source for him and his megawatt generator. Instead of helping to solve the problem, he becomes part of the problem.

Emergency communication systems and pro-

cedures are all about the future. When the next 'event' happens 'Ecomm' people and equipment not only have to be able to mobilize rapidly, be effective, and communicate accurately but be a supporting player on a larger team. It is kind of like football. If you never practice together, study the same play book, or understand what all the other players are doing or are going to do, or what is expected of you, you cannot be an effective dependable team member. In fact, you are most probably in the way.

Recent events like 911 etc. have brought emergency management and prevention issues into focus like never before. Fortunately, some really good people responding to the failures of the past, have developed procedures and systems which are constantly morphing into new and better ways to deal with naturally occurring and not so natural events. We will explore the modern 'Ecomm' environment. We will look at what it is and what it is not, how it is changing and how to find out more about it. It is hoped that members of the club will respond to ideas presented with their opinions so we can collectively share thoughts within our club. It is only with idea exploration that misconceptions can be exposed for what they are and really good ideas developed for the future.

Why should we bother? Well. Our club has always assumed that emergency communication is part of what the club does and we assumed that we would be welcomed when needed. But, we do not have a program detailing what the Club should or should not be doing. Lots of our members, including myself, have joined various emergency communication efforts. The question remains: 'What should we as a club be doing, and for whom?' We need to deal with: "Do we have a reason to use our resources to be involved? How can we best fit in? Are we prepared and do we want to participate? If we are not ready what would we have to do to get ready?"

I will not try to answer these questions. Rather, we need to develop an understanding

among ourselves so that our membership can make informed decisions about the above issues. First we will explore how things are and how they work and learn some new definitions: Like Incident Commander, Passport System, Scope of Command, inter-operability, and exactly where in the team communication operators fit and what should be expected of them.

The main difference between the past and now is an operational concept that must be fully understood. The Incident Command structure and the NIMS (National Incident Management System) are the tools of the trade. Uncle Fudd probably has never heard of them. We will try describing what is involved in detail because it is now THE WAY! It is logical and has been PROVEN an effective system for dealing with almost any 'event' you can imagine. It is the result of good people who really want to have things turn out right and who put down their fiefdoms, swallowed their egos and became team players for good of all in our communities.

As we progress, I expect to have people not agree with all my opinions. My opinions are my own, not the Club's. I hope the ensuing discussions will stimulate exploration and all will gain an understanding of this complicated subject. I hope you will freely discuss the issues so we can make sound decisions for the future of our club. Until next month. . .

73 de Bruce KD 7 UAQ at kd7uaq@arrl.net



Congratulations to Adam Ferris KD7TQX and his YL, soon to be XYL on their up-coming nuptials Saturday April 14th 2007!!

### **RCT Board Meeting 7 February, 2007**

The 7 February board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma club house. In the absence of the President and Vice President, Secretary Larry Watson KD4VOM called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. A quorum being present, the meeting continued.

Officers and board members present:

Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM

Treasurer: Pat Wingerter-- KD7TRC

Board Member: Gary McAdams -- WG7X

Board Member: Peter Baker -- AD7EU

Board Member: Alan Lentz -- W7AML

Board Member: Bob Purdom AD7LJ

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 11 members present at the meeting.*

*Also present: Mick Pier; Rich Manson; Al Burleson; Linda Adams; Chuck Kemmer*

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

Minutes from the 7 February board meeting were approved as reviewed/corrected.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Larry Watson -- KD4VOM

**Correspondence:** In addition to the normal bank statements, club newsletters and utility bills, we received a Silent Key notice from the XYL of former member Gerry Sanden K7YCI, who passed away suddenly at his home on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

*A copy of the current correspondence log is attached to the original minutes.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Pat Wingerter -- KD7TRC distributed copies of the monthly financial report, a copy of which is attached to the original minutes.

**CALENDAR REVIEW:** The Secretary provided a calendar listing of upcoming activities and events, which include the March 10<sup>th</sup> Mike and Key Hamfest in Puyallup, the March 10-11<sup>th</sup> RCT Technician Class, VE Testing scheduled for 13 March where a larger than normal crowd is anticipated due to the end of the Morse Code requirement for all license levels. Our Federal Income Tax Form 990 report is due in April, along with the first-half County property tax payment and our County Personal Property Tax Statement. March 31<sup>st</sup> is also the deadline for

membership renewals.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Membership:** No Report

**Hamfest:** Linda Adams KE7FKX reported on Hamfest planning. She provided a draft budget and outlined plans for our table at the Mike and Key Hamfest this weekend. Flyers are being readied and the schedule for the folding, stuffing and mailing session will be announced soon.

**Planning Committee:** Larry Watson KD4VOM discussed several ongoing Planning Team activities.

**Emergency Operations:** There have been major changes in the emergency operations area in both government and non government organizations that impact amateur radio operators. Bruce Mackey KE7UAQ, has proposed to provide a series of editorial articles for the BARK intended to describe and define the changes that are occurring in emergency operations and what they may mean to amateur radio operators and the club.

A detailed summary of the proposal is attached to the original minutes. The Board agreed with the proposal, and the article should begin with the April BARK.

**Development Planning:** The effort to determine how the club might use development fund raising techniques to improve our financial condition continues in the Planning Team.

**Financial Review:** The Financial Review project begun last year has completed its interviews which included; Hamfest, Membership, Training, Equipment Management, Open House and related activities, and the Treasurer. The Financial Review report is in preparation and is expected to be presented at the April Board meeting.

**Training:** Larry KD4VOM reported on recent information arising from the Financial Review interview with Steve Morton AD7AB. The Board had previously determined that the large Technician Class conducted in Puyallup did not qualify for our "Promotional Membership". During the Financial Review session Steve said that there is a likelihood that another sizeable class may be in the mill.

There was a discussion of the current Club Promotional Membership rules as defined in the Standing Rules. As a result of this discussion, the Board decided that a change in policy is

warranted. The Board decided:

If an Amateur Radio licensing class too large for the RCT Clubhouse facilities is conducted at an external location, is pre-approved by the Board, conducted using RCT Instructors and the VE testing is conducted by the RCT VE Team the class would be considered under RCT auspices. Further, that the class would receive an orientation to the Radio Club of Tacoma and asked to complete a membership application form during the class, to be turned in to Club Membership. When a student completed their VE testing with the RCT (Either at a large session conducted by the RCT VE Team, or at an RCT VE session at the Clubhouse, they would be granted the Probationary RCT membership. (Left undecided was how to deal with the registration fee now charged for Technician students who attend courses conducted at the clubhouse. It is presumed that proceeds from training manuals purchased through the Club or its agent would accrue to the Club treasury.)

**VE Report:** Larry KD4VOM reported that John Clarke AC7WW is anticipating a larger than normal crowd for the VE examination session coming up next week on the 13<sup>th</sup>. He plans to take folks on a first come, first served basis.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Programs and Budgets:** The Board reviewed a list of proposed/traditional activities which require planning and budgeting, and in some cases project managers.

**Mother's Day Breakfast:**

Manager: Rich Manson N7ANF

20 May

At the Clubhouse

Budget TBD

**W7DK @ the Beach**

Manager: Vacant

Early June

Location: TBD (Spanaway Park is closed for construction)

Budget TBD

Larry KD4VOM agreed to research possible locations, available dates, fees and report to the Board. Linda Adams KE7FKS suggested the Puyallup Brad-



ley Lake city park.

**Tacoma Ethnic Fest**

Manager: Peter Baker AD7EU  
29-30 July 2006  
Wright Park, Tacoma  
Budget: Registration Fee ~ \$40.00

**Field Day**

Manager: Bob Purdom AD7LJ  
22-23 June  
Location: TBD  
Budget: TBD

**Hamfest:**

Manager: Linda Adams KE7FKX  
10-11 August  
Bethel Jr. High School  
Budget: Submitted 7 Mar 2007

**Puyallup Fair Booth**

Manager: Pat Wingerter KD7TRC  
7-23 September  
Puyallup Fairgrounds  
Budget: TBD

**Awards Banquet**

Manager: Rich Manson N7ANF and Rick Rose KE7EMW?  
Date: TBD – December  
Location: TBD --TACID? Lakewood Community Center? Other?  
Budget: TBD

**Clubhouse Supply**

Manager: Vacant  
Date: Continuous  
Location: Clubhouse  
Budget: TBD  
*The Club needs a manager to plan, budget, and procure Clubhouse supplies. Copy paper, envelopes, stamps, toner, soft drinks, coffee, creamers, condiments, cups, paper towels, napkins, hand and dishwashing soap, envelopes, toilet paper and other routine supplies.*

**Program and Budget Summary:**

Larry KD4VOM recommended we hold a separate meeting with the Treasurer and program managers to establish planning goals and budget estimates for the remainder of the year.

The Board agreed to solicit volunteers for the vacant positions and to announce the vacancies at the next regular business meeting. The vacant positions include;

W7DK Picnic; Clubhouse Supply Manager; Scholarship Program; Facilities Manager, and Public Information officer.

**Rainwater Drain System Proposal:** Bob Purdom AD7LJ reported on the options for the proposed rainwater drain system intended to resolve the winter standing water problem in the Clubhouse basement. He reviewed the options for installing a leech or tube type underground pipe to move the water away from the Clubhouse. There was also a suggestion that we look at re-orienting gutter downspouts to the front of the house to move rainwater away from the basement area and into an area less likely to contribute to the wet basement problem. Bob said he'd check it out.

**Standing Rules Amendments:** Larry KD4VOM distributed a set of proposed changes to the Standing Rules resulting from the annual review of last years Board actions and decisions. Action was deferred on the proposed changes until the next Board meeting to allow time for their review.

**Qwest Telephone Expense Analysis:** Larry KD4VOM reported to the board on his research into the features and costs of our current Clubhouse telephone service and the potential savings from dropping services of little or no use. A motion was moved, seconded and passed to install a local telephone answering machine, verify its operation and then arrange to terminate the Qwest voicemail, call forwarding and long distance services, retaining only the necessary business line. Our current monthly bill runs around \$62.00, and after canceling the unneeded services we should realize a savings of around \$22 per month, or around \$264.00 per year. Bob Purdom to hook up and check out the answering machine he donated, and Larry KD4VOM to cancel the Qwest services after the answering machine is installed and working.

**Scholarship Program:** Larry KD4VOM reported that he contacted John Currie W7ARK as suggested to ask for his help with the Club's Scholarship Program. John reviewed the current scholarship application form and offered suggestions on its content and the process. We still have no one to manage the Club's Scholarship Program

**Equipment Inventory:** Larry KD4VOM reported that Rich Patrick KRTW was unable due to other commitments to do the Club's equipment inventory. As a result, an ad hoc team was assembled, and began the inventory and documentation process last Sunday. The team includes Peter Baker AD7EU, Bob Purdom AD7LJ, Chuck Kemmer AC7QN, Larry Watson KD4VOM, Worth

W7WG, and Morel W6LIX. Several months will be required to complete this project.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Emergency Operations:** See previous entry under Committee reports; Planning above.

**Access Control and Security:** Larry KD4VOM tabled a discussion of expanding and upgrading our existing alarm and security systems. Options discussed included incorporating the storage building in the alarm system, adding a autodial function if the alarm is tripped, improving security by establishing a two person rule and controls for high value areas, and requiring Board determination of access levels and access approvals.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:****DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

**HF Station Maintenance:** Larry KD4VOM noted that when Rich Patrick KR7W was doing recent work on the antenna, feed and control systems he noted several bare wires. The HF Beam rotor control no longer feeds back the direction, and the PSK 31 ladder line is down.

**Repeater Operations:** Larry KD4VOM tabled a proposal that the club consider adding announcements to both repeaters to promote club activities. We would add meeting locations, dates and times, along with Open house info and 2 meter net information. The Board decided to pursue this recommendation.

**Facility Management:** Larry KD4VOM reminded all that the Clubhouse is in dire need of a Facility Manger. The windows are suffering from dry rot as well as the eaves, and more. We need a complete inspection and repair planning and expense estimates.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

---

**RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES  
March 14, 2007**

The March 14 monthly membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. President Randy Thompson, AD7FF, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

---

Officers and board members present:

President: Randy Thompson AD7FF

Vice President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL

Treasurer: Pat Wingerter --KD7TRC

Board Member: Alan Lentz –W7AML

Board Member: Bob Purdom—AD7LJ

Board Member: Peter Baker – AD7EU

Board Member: Nick Winter – K7MO

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 48*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Pledge was led by President Randy followed by introductions. Many license upgrades were acknowledged and visitors were welcomed.

**ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY**

Steve, KD7UBE, announced that **Joe Baldasari, W7RQ**, is recovering from a stroke and feeling better. Jill, K7JIL, announced that Al Churchill's wife is once again taking treatments for lung cancer; please keep her in your thoughts.

**Conrad Cinq-Mars, N7WMH** is a silent key. He passed away on February 21, 2007 at the age of 52.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rick Rose, KE7EMW, membership chairman, announced that the Club currently has 246 members.

Peter Baker, AD7EU, is looking for three more people to help staff the Radio Club's booth at the Ethnic Fest held July 28/29 from noon to 7 PM at Wright Park in Tacoma. This event draws approximately 50,000 people. It would be a

good opportunity to introduce amateur radio to the public and promote the Radio Club.

Steve Morton, AD7AB, announced that the next Technician Class at the clubhouse will be April 14/15 which is a week after the VE testing session because of Easter. No class in May because of Mother's Day. He is currently planning a class in June and then none until October. If you know of anyone that is interested in attending, please have them notify Steve.

John Clarke, AC7WW, announced the results from the VE testing session held March 13, 2007 at the clubhouse. Fourteen VEs handled 35 candidates. Forty elements were graded with 32 being passed. Eight new Technician Class amateurs joined the Amateur Service. Twenty-four amateurs upgraded to General Class. Two amateurs upgraded to Extra. Three paper upgrades to General. (VE report from John attached.)

Ken Gibson, KE7IGZ, has experience with 501C3 corporations and fund raising activities for those businesses. He mentioned that the Radio Club of Tacoma, as a charitable organization, can be named as a beneficiary in a person's will or trust. Talk to a financial planner or an attorney for specifics. Only about ½ the people in the country have wills. If you don't have one, think about getting one and perhaps leaving a small donation to the Club to further amateur radio.

#### PROGRAM

Nick Winter, K7MO, presented a video about HANDI-HAMS. This is a national organization started back in 1967 in Minnesota. Their mission is to provide tools and training for people with disabilities to attain their ham licenses. Please go to their website at: [www.handihams.org](http://www.handihams.org) for more information. It was a very nice video and very good organization.

#### HINTS AND KINKS

A suggestion was made to invite Mark Yordy and his TACH-1 vehicle to the Club's field day activities.

Rich Patrick, KR7W, mentioned that anyone us-

ing wire ties cut off the ends flush using flush cutters to prevent cuts and scratches.

Nick, K7MO, received a flyer about the Yakima Hamfest which will be April 14, 2007, Saturday, between 9 AM- 4PM. More information at [www.w7aq.org](http://www.w7aq.org).

#### DOOR PRIZES

5 coax connectors were won by Chuck Kemmer, AC7QN.

110V inverter was won by Hal Stahlhut, W7EC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

---

#### W7DK PACKET SYSTEM

Our packet system is up and running 24/7. Please dust off those old TNC's and boat anchor computers and put them to work.

We are on 144.91 MHz at 1200 baud, AX25. Connect to DKBBBS or W7DK for the FBB BBS, W7DK-4 for the Telpac node, TAC or W7DK-5 for the local RF UROnode, W7DK-8 for the worldwide (X) net node.

We offer a suite of services to include a full service BBS. With the nodes, you can connect to locals on the same frequency, or cross connect to virtually anywhere on the globe. There is a link to your local DX Cluster Nodes, K7EK-1 and W7JD-2. A wealth of technical and other ham radio related information is also available on our packet system.

Getting on packet is easy. There's no excuse for not giving it a try. You can do it with your sound card and need no TNC!

Contact W7DK's Packet System Administrator for details: [gary.k7ek@gmail.com](mailto:gary.k7ek@gmail.com).

**Best regards,**

**Gary E. Kohtala – K7EK**

**GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**28 March, 2007**

The 28 March 2007 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Randy Thompson AD7FF called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Randy Thompson AD7FF  
Secretary: Larry Watson --KD4VOM  
Treasurer: Pat Wingerter --KD7TRC  
Board Member: Alan Lentz --W7AML  
Board Member Bob Purdom --KE7DGQ  
Board Member Peter Baker -- AD7EU  
Board Member Nick Winter -- K7MO

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 39 attendees at the meeting.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Was led by President Randy Thompson AD7FF

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed

**ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:**

Randy AD7FF reported that Frank AC7JY is ill and Jill K7JIL is home caring for Frank.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Larry Watson -- KD4VOM

**Correspondence:** Larry reported receipt of the usual bank statements, utility and phone bills along with several other club newsletters and a few QSL cards, one of which was sent by an XYL for a Ham who became a Silent Key last December.

Larry also reviewed upcoming calendar events including the Technician Class planned for April 14/15.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Pat Wingerter -- KD7TRC

The Treasurer's report was available for review. Pat also announced the good news that Gary McFadden K7UPG has agreed to serve as Club Treasurer.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership:** Rick Rose KE7EMW reminded the members that he is trying to provide mem-

bership dues receipts to those who have paid, and would rather avoid having to mail them at a club cost of 39 cents each. Membership renewals are due on 1 January and the grace period expires in a few days on 31 March. As of now, we have 253 members renewed and 49 members who have not yet responded.

**Hamfest:** Linda Adams KE7FKX reported on Hamfest planning. Flyers were distributed from our table at the Mike and Key Hamfest this month. Table reservations are coming in, and noted that you must have her name correct or the personal mail service she uses will return the mail. Linda also solicited folks to sign up to work at the various tasks required, especially those who did those jobs last year.

**PROGRAM:** Nick Winter -- K7MO Introduced Harry Hudson, K7LAZ and Jim Hadlock W7WA of the Western Washington DX Club who traveled personally to present several "Salmon Run" (An annual Washington State QSO party) awards to Radio Club of Tacoma Members. This year the Salmon Run had nearly 200 entries, including more than 107 from outside of Washington. The Salmon Run Washington Club Class award went to the Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK Crew which included Rich Patrick KR7W, Gary McAdams WG7X, Al Ferguson N7OMS, and Pat Wingerter KD7TRC. A special award was presented by Jim who had a great QSO with Linda Adams KE7FKX who was the top YL in the Salmon Run this year.

Following the Salmon Run descriptions and awards, the floor was made open to discuss the Western Washington DX Club history and DX operations. The discussion was lively and very informative. Those who missed this session lost an opportunity to explore the world of Ham DX operations and procedures. The topics ranged from what's an "entity" how DX-peditions are planned and financed, DX operating techniques, logging programs, the "Clustering" techniques and terminology such as UP2, or UPLID... The use of beacons for determining propagation patterns and the basics of understanding and using gray line were discussed along with the solar flare cycles and what we can expect as we begin the climb from the valley to the next flare peak over the next few years.

Handouts were distributed for this year's Salmon Run event which comes up on September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. For further information contact the Western Washington DX Club at [www.wwdxc.org](http://www.wwdxc.org)



**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**RCT Property Inventory:** Larry Watson KD4VOM reported on several ongoing events, including the Club property inventory project which has begun with the help of Bob Purdom AD7LJ, Chuck Kemmer AC7QN, Peter Baker AD7EU, Al Ferguson N7OMS and Larry Watson KD4VOM, Worth, W7WG, and Morel W6LIX. They are meeting normally on Sundays for a few hours to document Club equipment, beginning with the Museum artifacts.

**EMCOMM:** Larry also reported that a year long series of BARK articles describing the major changes underway in Emergency and Disaster operations. The articles are intended to explore the changes and what they may mean to individual Hams and to the Club as well. Bruce Mackey KD7UAQ is authoring this series of important Op Ed articles.

**Library Shelving Project:** Larry KD4VOM also reported on the progress of the Library Shelving progress underway by Rich Patrick KR7W, Chuck Kemmer AC7QN and Pat KD7TRC... (AKA Acme Industries)

**Tacoma Ethnic Fest:** Peter Baker AD7EU is planning to set up a Radio Club booth at this year's Tacoma Ethnic Fest (July 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>) and solicits members to help promote the Club and Amateur radio by working the booth with him.

**Hints and Kinks:**

**Zip Ties:** Si Nelson KA7AQT responding to a caution about the danger in the standard wire ties, passed out some ties that work like a belt and don't present the same sharp edges.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 pm

Secretary  
President



It's almost that time of year! A couple of FD- '06 pix. Top Hal W7EC and the infamous potato gun. Below, the VHF array of Charles KD7UAN.



RCT's Planning Team  
April 2007



Greetings from the Radio Club of Tacoma Planning Team. These articles are intended to keep the general membership apprised of RCT Planning Team activities.

It has been a relatively quiet month for the Team, but we have made progress on the Financial Review which should be completed in time for the 4 April Board meeting.

We have also been working on the Emergency Operations project, and expect the series of editorial articles on the dramatic changes that are occurring in the emergency and disaster response fields to begin shortly. These changes have major implications for those of us in the Amateur Radio Field and to the Club as well.

We are pleased to note that the Club's Property Inventory project is underway. There have been four sessions thus far, concentrating on the Museum artifacts. The team is nominally meeting on Sundays for three or four hours to document our holdings. The Team includes Al Ferguson N7OMS, Peter Baker AD7EU, Chuck Kemmer AC7QN, Bob Purdom AD7LJ, Worth Gurley W7WG, Morel Guyot W6LIX, and Larry Watson KD4VOM. We have inventoried and photographed nearly 200 items thus far, and have much more to do.

Also of note is the ongoing Library Shelving project underway on the second floor. Rich Patrick KR7W, Chuck Kemmer AC7QN and Pat Wingerter KD7TRC are delivering on their promise to make our Library a better and more secure place, and at the same time improve the safety of the stairway. Rich and Chuck have already put down new flooring on the north side eaves storage area.

#### **Club Organization and Functions:**

##### **Treasurer:**

A Volunteer has been found for this position. Gary McFadden K7UPG has stepped up to the plate to handle this critical club position. Thanks Gary...

We continue to solicit help in filling some of the

remaining vacant jobs. We need someone to step up and tackle these key positions.

##### **Public Relations** (also known as Public Information):

Public Relations are the way we keep the public at large as well as government organizations aware of our activities and the Club's contributions to the community. It is also a key way to promote Amateur Radio and attract new members.

In this case the ARRL has an absolutely outstanding support system which can make the job cookbook easy.

It does need someone capable of representing the Radio Club of Tacoma in the best possible light and able to work with community and government organizations to get the word out about the Club and Amateur Radio.

##### **Public Service Coordinator:**

In years past the Club has been very active in supporting community activities such as parade support, scouting,

##### **Awards Program:**

The Club conducts an Annual Awards Banquet in part to recognize the contributions of its members over the year. The Standing Rules define the Doc Spike Inspirational Award and a few others, but the Club is in need of an Awards Program manager. One who would expand the array of potential awards to allow us to better recognize the various areas where our members make significant contributions. The Awards Program needs expansion, documentation, and a process for soliciting, adjudicating and selecting nominees for recognition. Someone out there fits the bill here...

##### **Facilities Management:**

It should come as no surprise that our venerated 1905 Clubhouse is in dire need of maintenance and repair. The Club needs a Facilities Manager to help us inspect and identify needed work. Determining the resources needed and developing a plan to make the needed repairs has to be a priority action for us. The longer we wait, the more it will cost us to do.

##### **Scholarship Program:**

The Radio Club of Tacoma scholarship program too, is in need of a manager. Dedicated funds are in our kitty to be awarded to deserving students, but since Jerry Seligman W7BUN's



passing, this program has been without a rudder. We have a couple of potential candidate students, but no one to step up and manage the program which would require extending applications, processing them when returned and tracking the progress of our program. It might also include soliciting contributions to our dedicated and fenced Scholarship fund.

This is but a small sample of the Club's "jobs." There are many more vacant or dormant functions which we will explore in future articles

*Like all Club functions, committees, projects and programs, the Planning Team meetings are open to all. Any active club member is welcome to attend and offer insight and input to the team as they tackle some of the Club's enduring issues.*

*We normally meet at the clubhouse the Thursdays following the Clubs regular membership meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays). We normally begin around 6:30 pm. Please check with one of our cadre if you plan to attend just in case we have adjusted our meeting date or time for some reason.*

*It is equally important to note that the Planning Team is not a decision making body. Those responsibilities rest squarely with your elected officers. Our job is to do the leg work, research, develop information and make recommendations to the Board and Officers for their consideration and action.*

The team:

Larry Watson KD4VOM. Chairman

Al Burleson K7HW

Al Ferguson N7OMS

Rick Rose KE7EMW

Nick Winter K7MO

Paul LeBlanc K7AXJ

Comments and recommendations are welcome

Larry Watson KD4VOM

Planning Team

253-843-2190

[royretreat@mailcan.com](mailto:royretreat@mailcan.com)



Remember boys and Girls, CW's not just for HF! Get those keys and paddles going and get on the low end of the band! Any band... Here we see Rich KR7W and Gary WG7X during last years ARRL VHF contest on Dege peak in the Mt Rainer National Forest.



**VE REPORT by John AC7WW  
February**

A long standing tradition came to an end on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at the Radio Club of Tacoma testing session. Steve Jarvis, KE7GCC passed Element 1. Steve is a Technician class Amateur and has not passed Element 3 so he did not upgrade to General with his passing the code exam. He said he just wanted to do it before it was phased out. Congratulations to Steve.

Ten Volunteer Examiners handled the crowd of 20 candidates. Twenty-eight elements were graded with seventeen being passed. Twelve new Technician Class Amateurs joined the Amateur Service. Four Amateurs passed element 3, the General written exam waiting for February 23 and the end of the code requirement to upgrade to General Class.

Bob Purdom, KE7DGQ passed Element 3 and vowed to return at the March testing session and pass Element 4 to become an Extra Class Amateur.

Thanks to the following Volunteer Examiners that conducted the session.

Steve Blacksten, KD7UBE  
Al Churchill, AC7BU  
Jon Hamilton, AD7AW  
Rich Heasty, KK7VH  
Bill Jonez, AB7WJ  
Jim Lawrence, N7RHX  
Stephen Morton, AD7AB  
Don Perry, K7QLC  
Roland Svensson, WQ7P

**VE REPORT by John AC7WW.  
March**

As expected, we had a crowd at the clubhouse on Tuesday evening March 13, 2007. We could seat 22 in the classroom and as a candidate completed their test a waiting candidate was seated.

Fourteen Volunteer Examiners handled 35 candidates. Forty elements were graded with thirty-two being passed. Eight new Technician Class Amateurs joined the Amateur Service. Twenty-four Amateurs upgraded to General Class. Two Amateurs upgraded to Extra. We only had three paper upgrades to General.

Next Scheduled Testing Session is Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks to the following Volunteer Examiners that conducted the session.

Harry Adams, W7HSA  
Al Burleson, K7HW  
Steve Blacksten, KD7UBE  
Al Churchill, AC7BU  
Jon Hamilton, AD7AW  
Rich Heasty, KK7VH  
Chris Jensen, W7YX  
Bill Jonez, AB7WJ  
Jim Lawrence, N7RHX  
Stephen Morton, AD7AB  
Don Perry, K7QLC  
Larry Smith, AB7FJ  
Roland Svensson, WQ7P





# Happy Birthday

# April

<b>Day</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Call</b>	<b>RCT Number</b>
3	Jeffrey Hanson	<b>W7JFF</b>	770
6	Harry Hudson	<b>K7LAZ</b>	2160
7	Alan Ferguson	<b>N7OMS</b>	2107
7	Bill Lucas	<b>KB7IHB</b>	2114
7	Mike Scott	<b>KB7UXU</b>	1602
9	Harry Wong	<b>N7DOE</b>	1109
11	Bob Teitzel	<b>WA7ZZA</b>	771
13	Lee Meyers	<b>W6PZF</b>	263
14	Hap Arnold Jr	<b>KB7UXD</b>	1610
15	Joe Winter Sr	<b>WZ7M</b>	643
16	Jerry Hathaway	<b>K7ETU</b>	750
17	Steven Grafton	<b>KD7LXM</b>	2307
19	Jan Gilbertson	<b>K7HTU</b>	434
19	John Makebakken	<b>N7FOW</b>	1108
19	Matt Shaw	<b>KE7KJW</b>	2326
19	Robert Churchward	<b>W7RXS</b>	322
20	Mick Pier	<b>KK7QS</b>	1950
21	Pat Morgan	<b>N7CAK</b>	906
23	Bill Hare	<b>AD7AC</b>	2223
23	Chandler Ellis	<b>KC7EYZ</b>	1791
25	Robert Gates	<b>K7IND</b>	568
26	Vern Hase	<b>KD7GTZ</b>	2051
27	Robert Edwards	<b>N7HXX</b>	1207
28	Diane Sim	<b>W7SIM</b>	2304
28	Mary Ann Iseri	<b>KD7HYX</b>	2063

---

**RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA'S LATEST GENERAL CLASS GRADUATES!**

---

As most of you are probably aware, the rules for the General class have recently changed.

No, really!?

Yeah...

So, in order to assist those folks who wanted to upgrade as soon as possible some of the brave folks from the RCT decided to get together and hold a General license class.

Those brave folks were, in no particular order, Larry Watson KD4VOM, Nick Winter K7MO, Harry Adams W7HSA, Peter Baker AD7EU, Rich Patrick KR7W, and Gary McAdams WG7X.

After many fruitful discussions at local taverns, we had a lesson plan, and a workable schedule. The word had been put out, and students were waiting for us to begin.

We started on Friday February 2nd 2007. There were weekly sessions for the next five weeks, ending just before the March VE testing session on Tuesday March 13th 2007.

The class went well. In fact it went so well that we are considering starting another class soon!

I guess that the punishment was not severe enough the first time.

Just kidding!

It turned out to be an enjoyable experience for all parties and we look forward to doing it again.

Of the twelve students who participated, we don't have hard numbers yet, but eight of them were at the marathon testing session on the 13th and all but one of them passed the General!

A great big thanks goes out to the instructors and students who participated!

73

Gary WG7X



Proof is in the pudding! Jim KD7TJE and Lyn KD7WLT proudly display their CSCE's Congratulations!



Roddy and Davina Nolt waiting for their results.



Some of the crowd at RCT on test day!



Above: VE's process the paperwork! Bill AB7WJ, John AC7WW, AL K7HW and Roland WQ7P. Below, a small beginning waiting for the room to fill, which it did! 32 candidates total!



## A SCREWDRIVER ANTENNA FOR EVERY HAM RADIO ENTHUSIAST

By Rich KR7W



Screwdriver this... screwdriver antenna that! I have been hearing a lot about screwdriver antennas. "Get a screwdriver antenna and operate mobile", I hear a lot of at the radio club meetings.

One of the new General class ham operators was telling me about his screwdriver antenna he was going to install on his car (mobile). He was very excited. So, I did some research on this type of antenna.

There are all kinds of screwdriver antennas. Some by Tarheel, Mel Woody, MFJ, High Sierra, and more. Prices are from \$200 to over \$600. There are even some guys at the radio club that manufacture and sell them. Lots of info. However, I wanted SCREWDRIVER now! So, I decided to build my own with low cost and simplicity in mind.

The photo at the left shows the "heart" of my screwdriver antenna. It is about 12 inches long and obtained it at a bargain price at Goodwill. The rest of this article documents how I built my own version of a single band screwdriver antenna. If you choose to build your own antenna, then please heed my cautions that are based on my experiences with this project.

**This screwdriver was found at the Goodwill and purchased for \$.39.**

Besides the screwdriver, some other parts were used on my antenna.

At the Puyallup Ham Fest... I picked up some discarded mobile radio parts for free. One part in particular was a NMO antenna mounting cap (the whip was missing). This device is used to couple the screwdriver antenna to the NMO antenna mount on my car. See photo B. Please note that there is a threaded stud on top of the mount. Normally the whip is attached to this point through a machined adaptor. The threads on this mount are 12 X 24. Your mount may have a different size threads.

Another needed piece for this project is an electrical lug. See photo C. This lug is made for number 6 to number 2 wire. The opening in the lug allowed me to place the screwdriver blade tip through. On this project, I needed about a 5/16 inch opening. I purchased mine at the Home Depot for less than \$2. This lug is a two piece device. In order for it to fit onto the screwdriver shaft the lug needs to be taken apart and assembled backwards. For me this is a no-brainer because most things I take apart are re-assembled in the wrong order.



**Photo B: NMO antenna mounting cap.**



**Photo C: Electrical compression lug from Home Depot Electrical department.**

Continued on Page 21



Some assembly required... The first thing to do is to trim the bottom of the screwdriver handle to be flat and at a right angle with the handle and shaft. I was able to do this in the Acme Woodworks Shop with a chop saw. If you use a chop saw... the blade must be supported in such a way to make the screwdriver handle parallel with the saw's fence and cutting surface. If you don't have a chop then I might suggest placing the screwdriver handle in a vice with the handle at a right angle to the vice jaw and then cutting with a hacksaw along the top of the vice jaw. Or, I would file the end of the handle flat while it is in a vice. It is important to have the end of the handle flat to provide the most surface area for the gluing step.

Now, drill a hole in the end of the handle— as close to center as you can eye-ball it. The hole should be just smaller than the threads of the NMO antenna cap (Photo B). I had planned to tap the hole (with Tap and Die set)... but I did not have the correct size tap. So instead I used a drill size very close to the 12X24 thread diameter. See Photo D. The hole can be a bit sloppy, but not too much.



**Photo D:** Trim out detail for the end of the screwdriver handle.



**Photo E:** Hole location in top of NMO cap for loading coil wire protrusion.

Drill a very small hole in the top of the NMO antenna mount cap. Drill into the plastic part as close to the center as you can. The very center of the cap contains metal parts and it will be hard to drill through. The hole I drilled was 1/32 inch. It does not have to be exact... but just enough for the wire (described down the page) to fit through. See Photo E.



**Photo F:** Tin the electrical lug.

Tin the electrical lug with your soldering iron. Tinning the lug now will make it easier to solder the loading coil wire to the lug. It will be easier to tin the lug if it is disassembled. I applied some soldering flux to the lug to make it easier to tin. If the solder does not flow easily after sufficient heating then the lug may need to be cleaned with steel wool or another abrasive. See Photo F.

Next take a piece of hook-up wire (for the loading coil) about 10 inches long and strip off approx 1 inch of insulation. I used number 22 solid wire with a vinyl jacket (blue in the photos). Insert the bare end of the wire through the drilled hole in the NMO cap. Solder the wire end to the springy connector inside of the NMO cap. This will be easy to do because the connector is silver plated and is light weight. Be quick with this step so not to melt the NMO cap.

**Continued on Page 22**

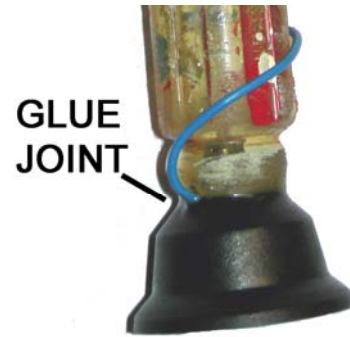
Glue the NMO cap to the screwdriver base. I placed the screwdriver handle in a vice, bottom facing up. Then I applied 5 minute epoxy glue to the handle and to the NMO cap. I made sure that the protruding wire had glue around it. Then I placed the cap onto the handle, screwing it in as best I could. Wait 5 minutes and presto!... The glue is dry. **See Photo G.**

Install the electrical lug on the screwdriver shaft. Then strip an inch of insulation from the end of the wire. Wrap the wire around the handle and carefully solder it to the lug. **See Photo H** for these details. It was helpful for me to loosen the electrical lug while soldering the wire because the screwdriver shaft was acting as a heat sink.

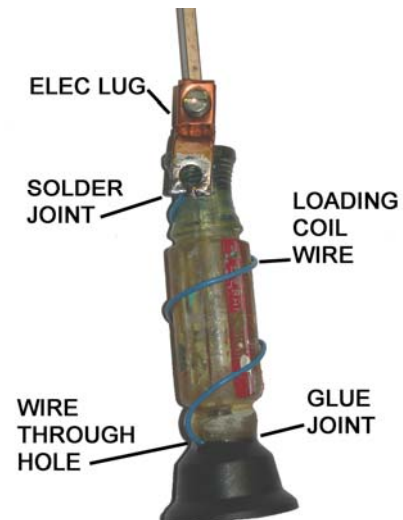
This antenna's size is supposed to act as a quarter wave vertical which is approx 19 inches long for 2 meters. Quarter wave antennas require a ground plane to work... so this antenna must be mounted on a vehicle roof, a trunk lid, or have radials. I mounted my antenna on the top of my old VW van which already had a NMO mount installed.



**Photo J: Shows the Screwdriver Antenna standing tall and proud on top of the WW7LW van.**



**Photo G: Shows the glue joint with the loading coil wire protruding.**



**Photo H: Loading coil wire wraps around handle and solders to electrical lug.**

**The following is important! DO NOT** transmit to this antenna unless you can verify that the SWR is **below 2.0 to 1**. Use or borrow an antenna analyzer and check the SWR. I had to remove about an inch from the loading coil wire before I was able to get a good SWR. Also, moving or forming the loading coil turns on the screwdriver shaft fine tuned for the best SWR. The type of ground plane that you use will also determine the SWR. So, once again, I'll say: **Be sure that you have a good SWR before transmitting to this antenna.**

**Conclusion:** This was a fun project that can be completed with ordinary ham shack tools. Now I have the rave of antennas, the mighty screwdriver. I'll be the center of attention at the ham radio clubhouse parking lot. **Total cost = under \$5.**

Best regards and Joe, I hope you are feeling better.  
de Rich KR7W dit dit.



**Photo K: Make sure your SWR is good before transmitting !!**

**Clubhouse Library Shelves Project... Moving at Glacial Speed, but...**

by Rich KR7W

...At least it is moving. At the clubhouse, the books and shelves that were in the west side of the stair well area of the second floor, are now moved into the Museum room. Sorry for this mess.

New shelves will be built and installed in this area. Currently the shelves bases are leveled and screwed to the floor. Who would have thought that the floor changes pitch over one inch in five feet? Yah, I know... it is an old house.

Enough plywood was purchased to build four shelf carcasses for this area. Two of the units were constructed at the Acme WoodWorks shop and ready to move to the clubhouse. They must be hoisted up through the window of the HF station room because they will not fit up the stairwell.

Part of this project improves the stairwell handrail and builds hatch covers for those mysterious holes cut into the second floor ceiling.

The generous donations from members are now tapped out from buying the materials for this phase of the project. Acme will donate the remaining materials needed to finish the west side of the stairwell. Before the East side of the stairwell can start, more funds are needed.

So, clubhouse visitors... please be patient with the construction mess and try and not distract the workers at work. Compliments are welcome. Thanks to my assistants who make sure things are level and plumb and help me work my tape measure: Pat, KD7TRC and Chuck, AC7QN.

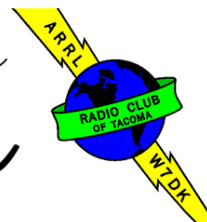


**Lots O' Screws and Glue at the Acme WoodWorks shop at the KR7W es KD7TRC QTH. The second shelf carcass is shown being assembled.**





*The Radio Club of Tacoma's*  
**Logger's Bark**



---

*The Logger's Bark* is the **OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA...** and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

---

### **Club Officers**

President: Randy Thompson AD7FF, 253-476-9249, ad7ff@hotmail.com

Vice Pres: Jill Palmer, K7JIL, 253-539-7772, hamtalker2@msn.com

Secretary: Larry Watson, KD4VOM, rwatson@chirpmail.com

Treasurer: Gary McFadden K7UPG

### **5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)**

Peter Baker, AD7EU, 253-274-1957, ad7eu.pp@gmail.com

Gary McAdams, WG7X, 253-984-0868, see roster email address

Nick Winter, K7MO, 253-474-3788, wjnjr@blarg.net

Bob Purdom, AD7LJ, 253-606-2636, cdrbob@hotmail.com

Alan Lentz, W7AML, 253-851-9774, alentz@centurytel.net

---

### **Logger's Bark Staff**

Editor in Chief: "Stop the Presses!!" Gary McAdams, WG7X, thebark@comcast.net

Printer/Publisher: "Start the Presses" John Clarke, AC7WW, 253-475-5854

Reporters: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma...

Send articles to: thebark@comcast.net or The Bark, 11405 88th Ct SW, Lakewood, WA 98498

**The Fine Print:** The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: [www.w7dk.org](http://www.w7dk.org). If a condensed paper copy is needed... then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.

**ADVERTISE in the BARK:** \$60.00 full page, \$30.00 half page, \$15.00 quarter page, \$5.00 business card size. These charges offset the publishing and USPS mailing costs.

**Want / For Sale ads** are free to members. The Logger's Bark does not verify or guarantee statements in the Want For Sale listings. Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Loggers Bark if Credit line is included in the article.

---

**Membership Info:** FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

---

## *Radio Club Repeaters*

*Central Tacoma:* 147.280 + PL=103.5    *Central Tacoma Packet:* 144.970

*Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County):* 147.380 + PL=103.5

*Central Tacoma:* 440.625 + PL=103.5

---



**THE LOGGER'S BARK**  
Radio Club of Tacoma, Inc.  
P.O. Box 11188  
Tacoma, WA 98411

**TO RCT MEMBER:**



# APRIL 2007 EVENTS

**Club Meetings:** Wednesdays April 11th and 25th at the library Administration building at 7:30 PM, 112th & Waller road. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Board Meeting,** Wednesday April 4th 7:30 PM at the. Clubhouse - All members welcome.

**License Testing** - Tuesday, April 10th 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse.

**BARK deadline Saturday April 28th 2007-** PLEASE get articles, columns, etc. in by that time!

- Support OUR club - Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer.
- Check in to the 2-meter Net every Tuesday night at 7:30, on 147.28. Hear additional information on programs and other events.
- Check in on the 10 Meter Net every Sunday evening, 8 PM, on 28.375 MHz USB